

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 3 and add new claims 7-9 as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A frame comprising:

an outer frame member of T-shaped section having an extension extending inwardly; and

an inner frame member having a flat portion abutting against the extension of the outer frame member,

wherein the outer frame member and the inner frame member are friction stir welded together with the edge of the extension of the outer frame member abutted against the edge of the flat portion of the inner frame member.

2. (Withdrawn) The frame of claim 1, wherein the inner frame member is formed of two or more frame members friction stir welded together with one abutted against another.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a frame, comprising the steps of:

preparing an outer frame member of T-shaped section having an extension of extending inwardly, the outer frame member being formed to have an elongate shape and being curved;

preparing an inner frame member having a flat portion abutting against the extension of the outer frame member, the inner frame member being formed to have an elongate shape and being curved in accordance with the shape of the longitudinal direction of the outer frame member; and

friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member to draw a curve on their seam with the curved edge of the extension of the outer frame member

abutted against the curved edge of the flat portion of the inner frame member.

4. (Original) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, wherein the step of preparing an inner frame member comprises the step of frictional stir welding two or more frame members with one abutted against another.

5. (Original) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of subjecting the outer and inner frame members together to surface treatment or finish coating.

6. (Original) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 4, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of subjecting the outer frame members together to surface treatment or finish coating.

7. (New) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of machining the weld.

8. (New) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of forming cutaways or holds in the weld.

9. (New) The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, wherein the inner frame member has a L-shaped section.